

March *i&h*,
1797*

I dined yesterday at Madame d'Houdetot's with Madame de Damas, St. Lambert, &c. — a very pleasant party. The alarm which the operations in our bank occasioned here seems to have blown over; besides, Jervis's victory will have a very powerful effect, they were so sure of his fleet being destroyed. From some strange, vague Spanish letters that the Spanish ambassador officially announced, everyone believed that the victory was on their side.

I have got through Necker's *declamation*, for it is more than anything else, and most of it *gratis dictum*. Lally has also published a *defense des emigres*. It comes with an odd grace from him who ran away first of anybody, and nobody (except Madame d'Herrion) knows why.

Yesterday I spent at Auteuil with Madame de Boufflers. M. Chevalier seems a sensible, clever man; and if he is not husband to the Countess Amelie, it must be because they choose to do without the ceremony. Emmanuel is clever, but untractable and spoilt. The Abbé Morellet, who

has been spending several days with
them, • says
Emmanuel tormented him to death.
He could
not read when, luckily for him, his
mamma and